

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, OCTOBER, 1958

U.L.C.A. Celebrates 40th Anniversary

In 1918 — firmly believing that greater unity among Lutherans would provide a stronger witness for Jesus Christ in the world — three church bodies came together to form The United Lutheran Church in America. Christ has used us in these 40 years to carry on his ministry of preaching, teaching, comforting, loving, winning others to Him.

As Christ is drawing us together in union with other Lutherans in a new merger of churches, we pause to reflect on a few of those events which have made our United Lutheran Church the many-nationed influence it is today:

1918—ULCA founded on November 15, merging the General Synod, General Council, and United Synod of the South, making a church of nearly 1,100,000 baptized members (776,000 confirmed), 3473 congregations, 45 constituent synods . . . First officers are: Dr. Frederick H. Knubel, president; Dr. Melancthon G. G. Scherer, secretary; E. Clarence Miller, treasurer . . . Common Service Book introduced . . . ULCA joins with other bodies to form National Lutheran Council.

1920—"Washington Declaration" appears, setting forth the ULCA's attitude toward external relationships and toward movements injurious to the Christian faith.

1923—ULCA participates in formation (at Eisenach, Germany)

of Lutheran World Convention. ULCA's Dr. John A. Morehead elected first chairman of its executive committee . . . Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship, concerned that 450 parishes have no pastors, takes on program of finding and educating young men for the ministry.

1924—Commission authorized to study higher education in the ULCA. Its 2000-page report, published four years later, is responsible for raising standards and improving facilities in United Lutheran colleges as well as seminaries.

1926—Five agencies (Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, West Indies Mission Board, Immigrants Mission

— Continued on Page Five —

Convention Conclusions

One of the outstanding talks at the Convention, to me, was Dr. H. Rasmussen, the U.L.C.A. representative. On Tuesday evening Dr. Rasmussen spoke on the Whole Work of the Whole Church, but his theme was "Are you a good steward for the Lord?" He explained that the word steward means 'manager'. What is your modern conception of a 'manager'? More to the point — how are we managing for the Almighty One who gave us all and never counted the cost? As one thinks about this theme, we realize that it is only too true that we are called upon to manage the temporal things of this world for only too short a time, and one day we will be called upon to account for the spending of our time, talent and treasure.

A copy of the report Mrs. Jonas Skulason presented to the members of her congregation (Geysir) after convention reached me and I thought that some of it should be repeated for your benefit too:

"What struck me most forcibly was the work of our lay people. We take it for granted that dedicated people like our pastors and deacons speak for the Lord, but it was the first time I have heard at conventions, laymen speaking for **their** faith. I realize this is the work of our U.L.C.A. in its work of stewardship and evangelism, which we think is just nonsense and just their way of getting more money from us. But I don't think it is wasted if we should have, by mistake, given something to it"

"Then came the financial report that everyone seems to be most interested in. However, there didn't seem to be any opposition

because everyone realized that if the work of the church was to be done there would have to be money. The last words my husband said to me were: 'Don't forget that you represent a congregation that is not in favor of any raise in the budget.' I said that I would remember but I forgot and voted for it, and I would like to state my reasons for doing so. I wonder if we have ever really thought about what we were doing when we voted against a budget of an organization. I'm sure that if we do so we will see that we are limiting its efforts, because if there are no funds, nothing can be done. By voting against the budget I was casting my vote against the wonderful work our U.L.C.A. is doing and wants to do. As an individual I could not do so, and somehow I could not think you people would want me to do so in your name . . . By non-support, indifference, and criticism we signed the death warrant of our own Icelandic Synod in 1940 and forced it to seek the strength we refused to give it from a financially stronger organization — the U.L.C.A. Being ashamed of having done so, we cast the blame on them and have ever since tried to blame them for everything we have

— Continued on Page Four —

THE PARISH MESSENGER

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Evangelical Lutheran Synod of
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The President Speaks

In another part of this paper there appears a resume of the 74th Annual Convention of our Synod, held at First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, June 8th-11th. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent convention, one of our best, and that concrete decisions had been reached after profitable and frank discussion. The host church and pastor had made splendid arrangements for all the details of an annual church convention, and they received everyone warmly and hospitably.

One of the main matters of discussion was the raising of our Apportioned Benevolence for 1958. At the Mountain Convention we had voted to accept the "doubled apportionment" for 1958, as all ULCA Synods did, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our United Lutheran Church. The reason for a "doubled" budget for the ULCA for 1958 was not just because it was 40 years old! But rather because we (the ULCA) were so far behind in doing so much of the Lord's work that we just had to catch up some time. 1958 was considered an appropriate time to catch up since that is the 40th year of the founding of the ULCA. Well, our Synod at convention assembled voted to adopt their fair share. Now that amounted to \$22,000. (It had been \$11,000 in 1957.) To the \$22,000, the Finance Committee of the Mountain Convention added another \$5,000 for local synodical operations. The total budget of approximately \$28,000 for our synod sounded to some fantastic and impossible. To others it seemed possible of attainment, and our Christian responsibility. All dele-

gates voted to adopt the budget, with only two abstentions.

Now what's the score so far on our decision? We made it in Mountain, and reiterated our resolve at the Winnipeg Convention to fulfill our goal. As of Sept. 20, 1958 our Treasurer, Mr. Bjorklund, had remitted to the ULCA for our Apportionment \$5,000, or 22 per cent of our goal. There remains **four** months to complete the goal. (ULCA financial year end is Jan. 20, 1959.) The most active period of church activity lies before us — the fall months. We still can meet this goal if every congregation and every individual does their share. What is each individual's share? If every confirmed member of the Icelandic Synod would give \$6.18 for the year 1958 for this purpose then our goal would be met! That's only three cents (3c) a day per confirmed member! When we look at the facts in this way, we see that the goal can be met. Right now it appears as if at least six or seven congregations are going to give their full share if they just continue as they have so far this year! All of our congregations can do it. Let's go!

The Executive Committee decided at its last meeting that REFORMATION SUNDAY, Oct. 26, would be a special Anniversary Sunday to celebrate the 40th birthday of the ULCA. On that Sunday our pastors and some laymen will tell the story of the ULCA, and a special anniversary offering will be received in each congregation for apportioned benevolence. (An alternate Sunday, if Reformation

— Continued on Page Four —

The President Speaks

— Continued from Page Three —

Sunday cannot be observed in this way, is Nov. 16th.)

The word that best describes our synod now is "action"! For example, just listen: Lundar just voted to call Pastor Jon Bjarman from Iceland, and he has accepted and will arrive in October! Selkirk church rjust built a beautiful new parsonage which will be dedicated in October! Arborg-Riverton parish voted by an 83 per cent favorable vote to divide the parish, and call another pastor for Riverton! All these actions represent real progress in the Kingdom work of our synod's congregations.

Pray for the spiritual success of the two Evangelism Missions coming up in our synod: In Argyle Parish with three guest Missioners expected, and in the Mountain parish also with three guest pastors expected. Planning and preparations are going on in Argyle and Mountain now.

Some of our congregations are now using the new Service Book and Hymnal: First Lutheran, Winnipeg; Vikur Church, Mountain, and Selkirk Church. Others plan on securing the new books soon. Remember that Mrs. Eric

Isfeld, organist and choir director of First Lutheran Church, is prepared to help congregations in their study and preparation for use of the new service form.

It's a joy to visit Betel Home now — so large and beautiful. Now the new elevator has been installed which is a big help to staff and residents. Almost a 100 residents there now. Betel Home still needs financial support. If you individually or your congregation wishes to do something special for Betel, give a furnished room. \$350 will put new furniture into a room, and a plaque will be placed on the door of the room indicating the name of the donor. This is a splendid memorial gift.

Your President will be leaving in a few days for the ULCA Convention in Dayton, Ohio. Treasurer Oscar Bjorklund is our lay delegate. Pastor Brynjolfsson of Vancouver was supposed to go as official pastoral delegate, but present illness prevents his going. We pray for his recovery.

One of the main topics for discussion in Dayton will be the merger of four Lutheran bodies, of which the United Lutheran Church is one.

CONVENTION CONCLUSIONS

— Continued from Page Two —

thought has gone wrong and accusing them of only wanting our money . . . Now the time has come when we must face the fact that we are the U.L.C.A. and in criticizing it we are criticizing ourselves and everything that concerns it, concerns us.

"I have brought this matter to your attention as it is very apparent that everything is changing rapidly. Our lay people are getting

stronger and there is a great change ahead in our Christian Church life. We can no longer be indifferent to its needs. Out of the chaos of two world wars, our church is trying to lead the nations of the world out of the darkness and into the light, and without its people's support it cannot be done. Please consider this matter carefully and then decide and ask yourselves the all-important question — Are we with or against the Church of Christ?"

40th Anniversary

— Continued from Page One —

Board, North-western Mission Board, Jewish Mission Committee) combined into ULCA Board of American Missions. Its first "Plan of Operation" approved.

1928—ULCA celebrates 10th anniversary with \$4 million campaign for pensions endowment fund. More than 200,000 persons subscribe \$4,176,000, but industrial depression reduces payments to about \$3,200,000 . . . Lutheran Church in India received as "associate body" . . . ULCA investment commission authorized.

1929—ULCA's Dr. Morehead, executive director of the National Lutheran Council and former president of Roanoke College, elected president of Lutheran World Convention.

1930—Significant report on marriage, divorce, and Christian's attitude toward war made by Committee on Moral and Social Welfare — forerunner of Board of Social Missions Department of Social Action . . . 400th anniversary of Augsburg Confession celebrated . . . Japan Lutheran Church named "associate body".

1932—Dr. Walton H. Greever elected ULCA secretary . . . ULCA ventures into its own radio programming with Sunday Vespers, featuring preaching of President Knubel and Dr. Paul Scherer. Program successful for 16 summer seasons.

1934—Savannah Convention opens door to discussion with other Lutheran bodies concerning organic union.

1936—Service of women as congregational representatives approved.

1938—First churchwide promotion plans inaugurated. ULCA now has 3962 congregations, 1,644,000 baptized and 1,153,000 confirmed members . . . Baltimore Declaration on the Word of God and the Scriptures officially defines church's belief that the Scriptures are: (1) The spring from which the saving power of God continuously flows into the lives of men; (2) The only source of truly Christian doctrine; (3) The only rule and norm for Christian faith and life . . . Board of Social Missions organized, made responsible for inner missions, evangelism, social action and disaster relief . . . ULCA pioneers with *The Thunder of the Sea*, sound motion picture, to help promote 20th anniversary appeal for home missions . . . Important advances made in furthering Lutheranism in Latin America.

1940—World relief through Lutheran World Action started. By 1958 more than \$50 million is contributed, along with \$80 million-worth of foods, goods and medicine . . . S. Frederick Telleen begins 11 years full-time volunteer service as treasurer of both the National Lutheran Council and ULCA Board of American Missions. Icelandic Synod joins ULCA.

1942—Report 126 ULCA pastors in uniform as armed forces chaplains. Before end of World War II, 334 ULCA pas-

— Continued on Page Seven —



Sister Laufey Olson Consecrated at Convention

At the evening service Sunday, June 8, 1958, Sister Laufey Olson was consecrated. Liturgist was the Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D., and lector, the Rev. O. Jack Larson. The rite of consecration was conducted by Dr. Alvin E. Bell, representative of the Board of Deaconess Work, U.L.C.A., who also preached the sermon. Sister Laufey was presented for consecration by Sister Anna Melville, Director of the Baltimore Home.

Our Synod has never before witnessed the Consecration service

of a Deaconess. We are grateful that one of our own women has given her life in full-time service to the Church in the Diaconate. Sister Laufey Olson is the widow of the late Rev. Carl Olson of our Synod. She grew up in our Selkirk congregation. We wish her God's blessing in His service.

We are grateful to the Board of American Missions for sending her to the Arborg-Riverton parish for over a year, and now to the St. Stephen's parish for six months.

40th Anniversary

— Continued from Page Five —

tors serve as chaplains in U.S. and Canadian service branches.

1944—Dr. Franklin Clark Fry is elected ULCA president, Henry Beisler elected treasurer . . . Named for the first president and treasurer, Knubel-Miller lectureship is established to heighten the standards of the ministry. Dr. Greever is first lecturer.

1945—Dr. G. Elson Ruff becomes editor of *The Lutheran* . . . Stewardship Department organized, to be directed by laymen and supported by the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship as a demonstration of lay service in the church's life.

1946—Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz elected ULCA secretary.

1947—ULCA participates in organization of Lutheran World Federation (successor to "Convention") at Lund, Sweden. ULCA's Dr. Abdel R. Wentz elected first vice-president; Dr. Fry named treasurer.

1948—ULCA again invites any and all Lutheran bodies "one with us in the faith" to merge . . . First Faith and Life Report examines the church's life in terms of its beliefs to encourage in members a more enlightened use of the means of grace . . . Celebrate 200th anniversary of Ministerium of Pennsylvania, oldest Lutheran synod in the New World . . . 100th anniversary of mission work in India.

1949—Work among displaced persons begun by National Lutheran Council. Over next five years more than 36,000 Europeans are resettled in the United States under Lutheran auspices.

1950—Christian Higher Education Year (CHEY), with \$6 million goal for new buildings on 21 ULCA campuses. Total, promptly over-subscribed, reaches \$6,737,000 by 1958 . . . ULCA becomes a member of National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

1952—Dr. Edmund F. Wagner elected treasurer of ULCA . . . Delegates represent our church at Second Assembly of Lutheran World Federation, Hannover, Germany. Dr. Fry elected LWF first vice-president.

1953—Premiere of *Martin Luther* film at Minneapolis. Over next few years film is seen in a dozen foreign language versions by some 30 million persons throughout the world, establishing box office records and winning international awards . . . To simplify and improve workings of our growing church, Commission on Organizational Structure begins exhaustive studies, reporting to 1954 convention. During the period, Departments of Church Architecture; Worship; Press, Radio and Television are established.

1954—World Council of Churches Assembly at Evanston, Ill. Dr. Fry elected chairman of policy-making Central Committee.

— Continued on Page Thirteen —

From the Treasurer:

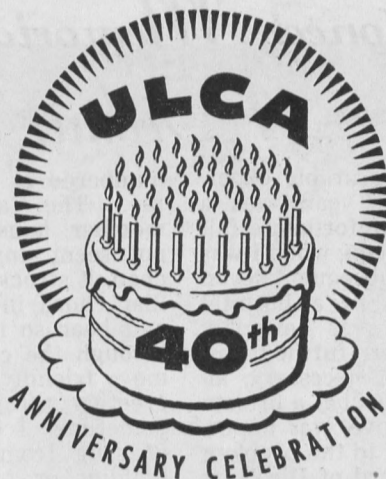
PAROCHIAL REPORTS ON BENEVOLENCE

Congregation	No. of Members	Appor- tionment	Rec'd	L.W.A.
		1958	Sept. 28	
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	890	\$5,500.20	\$1,082.77	
Selkirk, Selkirk	413	2,552.34	300.00	
Gimli, Gimli	265	1,637.70	455.15	
Icelandic, Vancouver	265	1,637.70	1,100.00	
Braethra, Riverton	240	1,483.20	57.95	
Ardal, Arborg	231	1,427.58	326.70	\$ 6.00
Calvary, Seattle	225	1,390.50	947.31	180.65
Lundar, Lundar	181	1,118.58	100.00	
St. Paul's, Minnesota	161	994.98	285.80	107.62
St. Stephen's, St. James	160	988.80	782.63	56.80
Vikur, Mountain	159	982.62	53.50	
Herthubreith, Langruth	141	871.38	238.00	
Peters, Sveld	125	772.50		
Vidalin, Hensel	105	648.90	222.27	4.76
Geysir, Geysir	97	599.46	45.00	
Brethvikur, Hnausa	79	488.20	51.25	
Mikleyar, Hecla	69	426.42		
Fjalla, Milton	69	426.42		
Emmanuel, Baldur	63	389.34	200.00	25.00
Arnes, Arnes	63	389.34	35.00	
Glenboro, Glenboro	60	370.80	159.00	
Vidir, Vidir	60	370.80	36.45	10.00
Lincoln, Taunton	51	315.18	150.00	
Hallson, Hallson	45	278.10		6.00
Gudbrands, Morden	45	278.10		
Bethel, Silver Bay	45	278.10		
Vidines, Husavik	41	253.38	25.00	
Trinity, Point Roberts	28	173.04	10.00	25.00
Frikirkju, Bru	37	228.66	10.00	10.00
Concordia, Churchbridge	22	135.96	9.00	28.25
Frelsis, Grund	18	111.24	147.62	
Gardar		no appt.	48.28	
Mrs. A. S. Bardal				10.00
TOTALS		\$27,519.52	\$6,878.68	\$470.08

The foregoing sets out the amounts received by Synod from its constituent congregations. At September 20th, Synod had transmitted to the U.L.C.A., 34.7% of its minimum objective. At September 20th, Synod should have transmitted 66.7%, if it is to attain its minimum objective.

As approved in Convention, Synod has set aside Refomation Sunday, October 26th, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the U.L.C.A. Special offering envelopes will be forwarded to Synod and credited to the Congregation's benevolence.

I pray that we will all examine our hearts and that our offerings will be an expression of our Faith and Gratitude to God.



*During the 40th Anniversary Advance
of the U.L.C.A.*

HOW MUCH SHALL I GIVE?

GOD GIVES ME:

Body

Soul

Limbs

Senses

Mind

Home

Family

Property

HIS SON

Faith

Forgiveness

Eternal Life

**HOW MUCH DOES
MY GRATITUDE
COMPELL ME TO
GIVE?**

Borg Pioneer Memorial Home

A Tribute

One of many pleasurable experiences of my later years was a direct result of an unfortunate fall and a badly broken hip, when I was 77 years old. The subsequent seven weeks were spent in a hospital where my injury was expertly treated. After that, further hospitalization was not necessary, although care, beyond what a private home usually can give, was imperative. The solution to the problem came when the Board of Directors and Mrs. B. F. Olgeirson, the matron of the Old People's Home at Mountain, decided to admit me to the home and to give me the needed care during the period of recuperation that lay ahead.

On an oppressively hot day in June, I was moved to Borg by ambulance. The forty or more miles of road seemed endless and I became very miserable. Mrs. Olgeirson met the ambulance, gave me the necessary first aid and supervised my entrance into the building. I do not remember who so kindly carried me to my room, but I do remember coming into a beautiful room when I was placed on a comfortable bed with cool, snowy white bed linen, which seemed to me to be the ultimate in comfort. It took several days to get over the effects of that drive, but the matron and her good nurses watched over me, giving me a marvellous feeling of security in their presence and a blessed relief from discomfort by the healing in their hands.

As a child in Iceland, I lived in a large, well-ordered home, where the family, including servants,

numbered as many as thirty people. The approximately forty member household at Borg, did not seem unnaturally large. Indeed, it struck a pleasant and familiar chord in my memory to see and hear so many people passing through the corridor, often giving me a friendly smile or a cheerful greeting through my open door. Sometimes I could hear a snatch of song from somewhere in the building or a voice reading aloud to someone with poor eyesight. Then there was the young maid, who whistled so merrily as she brought my dinner tray. All these and countless thoughtful little deeds of kindness might be called trivial in themselves. Yet, they added up to make the singularly pleasant, home-like atmosphere that is one of the great attainments of the institution.

The lion's share of achieving this wonderful quality, should without doubt, be credited to Mrs. Olgeirson. Her staff of kindly, able and co-operative people also deserve much credit and indeed, all members of the Home.

Housed comfortably in a beautiful building, the Home operates efficiently in all its departments on a definite but pleasant routine, that allows some freedoms that might not be practical in larger institutions but which here work out admirably and without being abused. Thus, there are no set visiting hours, and callers may come and go at their own convenience, thereby eliminating all tensions and hurry and adding im-

— Continued on Page Twelve —



Prior to Ordination

One of the highlights of the last Convention was the Ordination of two young men who have grown up in our Synod. Donald Olsen was baptized, confirmed, married and now ordained in First Lutheran Church! Wallace Bergman, born in Riverton, was raised in Gimli, where he was also confirmed. After graduating from high school, he moved to Winnipeg with his family, where he became a member of First Lutheran Church. Pastor Olsen is now serving in the Argyle Parish and Pastor Bergman at Minneota Parish.

The festive service of ordination was opened with the processional

hymn, "The Church's One Foundation" as the two ordinands marched with the pastors of the Synod to their places at the altar of the First Lutheran Church. Conducting the liturgy of the service were President Eric H. Sigmar and Secretary Olafur Skulason. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D. The order for ordination was conducted by Synod President, assisted by the Secretary and Dr. Eylands (Pastor Loci) and the Synod clergy participated with laying on of hands on the ordinands. Among the pastors was Dr. Runolfur Marteinson, the Honorary President of our Synod.

Borg Pioneer Memorial Home

A Tribute

— Continued from Page Ten —

measurably to the enjoyment of all concerned as they visit over the hospitable coffee cups generously served by the Home.

Periodically, the Ladies Aids of the congregations that constitute our parish and the local chapter of the Pioneer Daughters come for a visit, bringing good cheer in the form of party victuals and a program of entertainment. These occasions are greatly appreciated and enjoyed. The same is true when at Christmas or Easter some of the church choirs produce their song services. While I was there, two schools and several individuals and groups of entertainers, both local and from neighboring districts, entertained. Through the courtesy and generosity of these people, we were able to enjoy much of the best in the line of entertainment available in the community.

Borg is equipped with radio and television facilities and has a very good, if not a large, collection of music records. But the Reading Hour that Mr. Olgeirson puts on daily after supper, is perhaps the most popular entertainment of all. He reads from Icelandic books, dear to the heart of the Icelandic branch of the family. I have

heard the Reading Hour wind up in a burst of melody, with Mr. Olgeirson's clear voice leading the old people in a hilarious rendition of Icelandic song favorites.

From all this, it is obvious that the life at Borg is neither dull nor monotonous.

As a spiritual leader, the pastor of Vikur Church serves Borg by frequent visits and by conducting a religious service every other Sunday morning.

A doctor visits the Home regularly to check on health conditions. Each resident is also free to consult a doctor of his own choice whenever he wishes.

This summer I began my fifth year of semi-invalidism which is the aftermath of that hip fracture. I still cherish the memories of my five-month stay at Borg as something very precious. When and if the time comes that I shall need more care than I do now, it is my fervent hope that the Pioneer Memorial Home at Mountain will open its doors to me a second time and permit me to share with other members of my age group the excellence of the service given and the congenial life conditions at the Home.

—KIRSTIN H. OLAFSON

40th Anniversary

— Continued from Page Seven —

1955—Two-year Lutheran Evangelism Mission begins — instrumental in deepening spiritual commitment across the church as 127,000 lay visitors call on members and prospects.

1956—Active merger negotiations commence with Augustana Synod, American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Suomi Synod . . . Church issues important statements on race relations, and on marriage and divorce . . . National Lutheran Council elects ULCA Secretary Reinartz to first of three terms as president . . . Globetrotting Dr. Fry journeys behind Iron Curtain with other Protestant churchmen to seek relationships with Russian Christendom.

1957—Total expenditures of ULCA congregations pass \$100 million mark for first time. There are now 4508 congregations, 2,395,000 baptized and 1,631,000 confirmed members of the 32 constituent synods . . . Baptized membership in overseas sister churches totals 288,000 . . . Third Assembly of Lutheran World Federation held at Minneapolis elects Dr. Fry president for 1957-1962 term . . . ULC Foundation established to counsel persons of larger resources and receive capital gifts for church and its agencies and institutions . . . School of Missions opens at Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary to train missionaries and nationals from the sister churches.

1958—ULCA celebrates 40th anniversary with a doubled budget of \$15 million for church's work in all areas, particularly for five imperatives: church extension, capital needs in overseas missions, coast-to-coast television, NLC student centers, addition to Lutheran Church House . . . Enriching and purifying our liturgy and hymnody, new Service Book and Hymnal introduced to all NLC bodies after 12 years of preparation . . . ULCA, continuing as largest Lutheran body in America, now has congregations in all but three states of the U.S., all but one Canadian province, as well as in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands . . . Looking forward to merger with the Augustana, Suomi, and AELC bodies, United Lutherans rejoice, thanking God that in each year and generation Lutherans and all other Christians find, trust and serve each other in fuller unity through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Festive Installation Services

Our two ordinands from our recent convention were installed at festive services during the summer.

On Sunday afternoon, June 29th, the Rev. Oliver Donald Olsen was installed as the pastor of the Argyle Lutheran parish in the Frelsis Church at Grund. The church, which seats over 200, was filled, with a huge joint choir of the parish leading in the singing of the service. The president of the synod, Pastor E. H. Sigmar, performed the Order for Installation, assisted by Dr. V. J. Eylands, vice-president, who preached the Charge to the Pastor. Pastor Sigmar preached the Charge to the Parish. Pastor Olsen closed the service with brief remarks. Two of the laymen of the congregation also spoke; Mr. B. S. Johnson, president of the parish council and Mr. T. E. Oleson, secretary of the parish. The ladies of the parish served refreshments in the Grund Parish Hall following the service.

On August 27th, Pastors E. H. Sigmar and O. Skulason travelled

to Minneota, Minn., where they conducted the installation service for Pastor Wallace Martin Bergman that evening. The church was filled with over 150 members of the St. Paul and Lincoln congregations of the Minneota parish. Pastor Sigmar preached the Charge to the Parish and conducted the Order for Installation, assisted by Pastor Skulason who also preached the Charge to the Pastor. The ladies of the congregations served in the Parish Hall following the refreshments at a fellowship hour installation service. This is probably the first time in the history of the Icelandic Synod that the President and secretary of synod went by airplane for an installation service. Because of busy schedules, Pastors Sigmar and Skulason were flown to Minneota by Mr. Richard Halldorson in his four-passenger plane. Mr. Halldorson is a member of the Vikur Church in Mountain.

—REV. ERIC H. SIGMAR

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ARBORG-RIVERTON

The church councils of the five congregations recommended that the parish be divided. The recommendation proposed that Arborg, Geysir and Vidir make up one parish while Riverton, Hnausa and Hecla would make up the second parish. The second pastor would reside in Riverton. The Board of American Missions will give salary

aid until both parishes are self-supporting and will also loan money for a new parsonage. It was agreed that one pastor could not do even the basic things with five churches and that Riverton needs a resident minister. Four of the five churches voted in favor of the division. If things go right the parish could be divided and a second pastor could be on the field by the first of January.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ARGYLE

After being without a minister for a year, Rev. Donald Olsen was inducted as our new pastor on June 29. Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, President of Synod and Dr. V. J. Eylands, Vice-President of Synod, performed the ceremony, and preached the "Charge to the Parish" and the "Charge to the Pastor" respectively. The joint choirs of the four churches sang a special anthem. A fellowship hour was held at the Grund Hall and lunch was served. We welcome Rev. Olsen, his wife and family to our district and we hope we may have long and fine spiritual fellowship together.

The manse at Glenboro has been cleaned and beautified by the people of the four congregations. Many people donated work, paint, etc. May God bless our united endeavours and make our minister's sojourn among us one of unremitting joy and satisfaction.

In July a meeting of Parish Trustees was held at Grund, to hear Mr. Milton Fiene of the Department of Stewardship of U.L.C.A. and Mr. Raymond Vopni, our Synodical Stewardship Secretary, outline the Stewardship Program of the U.L.C.A.

In July also, a very fine and inspiring outline was given by Rev. Dana Johnson, Evangelism Secretary of the U.L.C.A. on "Area Lutheran Evangelism Missions" which the parishes are tentatively planning for this area. We trust that this will awaken a new spirit of church attendance, work and worship to the glory of God.

A Rededication Service of Frikirju Bru) Lutheran Church was held in July by Rev. Olsen. The

congregation of this church has renovated it throughout and have indeed beautified the church. A joint service was held here to worship and thank God for our many blessings. Those of us who have many dear memories of this church were indeed happy to be at this impressive worship hour. The choir sang a very beautiful anthem, "Fear Thou Not". A lovely rug was donated to the church by Thorsteinn Hallgrimson, in memory of his wife, the late Valgerdur Hallgrimson. An anonymous donation of another fine rug was made. This will be used in the vestibule. We wish to congratulate the Firkirkju Congregation on their fine work.

—H. GUNNLAUGSON

SELKIRK

Our Parish activities have commenced again after a short recess; Church service being held at 11 a.m. and Choral Vespers at 7 p.m., the new hymnals and form of worship now being used. Vacation Sunday School held in August under the leadership of Mrs. E. Day was very successful.

The Congregation has purchased a new parsonage which is now occupied by Pastor and Mrs. Day.

Our Junior Ladies Aid with Mrs. W. Keen as President are again very active, assisting in the work of the Parish.

Thursday, September 18, our Senior Ladies Aid assisted by the Junior Aid, travelled to Bethel, Gimli. After refreshments had been served to the residents a very enjoyable program was held. It is a joy to see how well cared for and happy our older citizens are in this home.

—CHRISTIE JOHNSON

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

GIMLI

Gimli being a summer resort town, many visitors have attended services during the summer, and the usual church members have curtailed activities because they usually have many guests each weekend. A number of pastors, including Dr. V. J. Eylands, Rev. Skuli Sigurgeirson and Rev. Wind of Winnipeg, have attended services here while vacationing in the district. Services are held in the morning only during July and August, but the pastor has kept up his record of holding services every week at all his churches, Husavick, Arnes and Hecla, as well as Gimli and Betel Home.

During August Pastor Fullmer and family were on vacation, travelling to Washington State. During his absence we had services by Padre Yates of the RCAF Station, Dr. Eylands and Sister Laufey Olson. Sunday School and Bible classes are not held during the summer, but we hope to make a good start on our Bible study in September.

Pastor Fullmer and the newly-ordained Pastor Wally Bergman each became fathers of daughters during the same week in June, and their wives were both in Gimli Hospital at the same time. A number of children were baptized during the summer, at two baptismal services, and six persons joined the congregation following pastor's classes. It is with the deepest regret that we said farewell to two valued members of our congregation, both long-standing members of the church board, John Howardson, who goes to a new position at Port Arthur, Ontario, and Dr. George Johnson, who was elected to the Manitoba Legislature and is now

Minister of Health and Welfare, so is moving his family to Winnipeg. They will be greatly missed. Mr. Howardson has been secretary and envelope secretary in turn for a number of years, and was chairman of the new lay visiting committee. Dr. Johnson, his wife and children, have been faithful and hard-working members since their arrival in Gimli seven years ago. We wish both families the very best in their new homes and positions.

—MRS. RICHARD HOWARD

CONCORDIA-CHURCHBRIDGE

Every first and third Sunday of each month we have been having services which have been well attended. These services are conducted by Rev. Otto E. Goos, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, from nearby Langenburg, Saskatchewan.

Sunday School classes are conducted every Sunday under the very able leadership of Mrs. Inga Johnson, assisted by Miss Kristine Markusson with 18 pupils enrolled. The Sunday School is preparing for a concert to be held Friday, September 26.

On September 14, the church was filled to near capacity for a special evening service conducted by Rev. Goos. Rev. Eric Sigmar preached the sermon. After the service a fellowship hour was held at the hall.

—TED MAGNUSSON

EDITOR'S NOTE:— I'm sure you readers have noticed that this is the first communication from Churchbridge in a long time.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ST. STEPHEN'S

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church conducted a very successful Vacation Bible School in mid-August. Total enrollment of the school including both pupils and teachers, was 107, with a high attendance at each of the seven mornings of the school. The school closed with a program which was well attended by parents and members of the congregation.

Regular services were conducted during the entire summer and although attendance was considerably lower than other times of the church year, services were reasonably well attended, with an upswing evident in the last few Sundays of August. Attendance on the first two Sundays of September has returned to almost normal and all activities of the congregation have resumed again.

Recently First Lutheran Church gave our congregation 30 music editions of the Common Service Book which will be added to our present number until we order the new Service Book and Hymnal. On Youth Sunday, Sept. 21st, young people from the Luther League participated in the worship service. A Junior Choir was recently organized with weekly practices being held. The congregation will be visited by Pastor Merle Franke of the Board of American Missions of the Chicago offices, on Sept. 28th. The congregation was recently advised by the Board of American Missions that they were assigning Sister Laufey Olson to assist with the program of the parish for the next six months. The congregation looks forward with eagerness and anticipation to her work with us.

—REV. ERIC H. SIGMAR

VANCOUVER

Another summer has come and gone — a busy summer in the city of Vancouver, which with other cities and towns in this province, has been celebrating its centennial. These celebrations have been in varied forms, with outstanding events in every form of entertainment, such as music, drama, sports, etc. The weather has been ideal for all such celebrations, especially picnics and outdoor events with bright sunny days and hardly a drop of rain all summer.

It has been a busy time too in our church, where services in English and Icelandic are held every Sunday, with a choir in attendance. Almost every Sunday there have been guests; from the Canadian prairies, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, United States, etc. We have been glad to see them all and to have them worship with us.

Our choir too, has had a busy summer. They sang at a concert June 17, commemorating Iceland's Day of Independence, and again on July 27 at the "Icelandic Day" held at the Peace Arch, Blaine. At both these events they sang treasured favorite Icelandic songs. Speakers at these concerts included Rev. E. S. Brynjolfson, Frank Fredrickson and our consul Mr. J. Sigurdson. Dr. Richard Beck was the guest speaker at the Icelandic Day.

On August 24, our W.A. entertained the residents at "Hofn" and there also the choir sang several Icelandic numbers. Mrs. Anna McLeod was soloist and a general sing-song was enjoyed by all. A delicious lunch was served to the residents and guests. Present at this gathering were Mr. Marja Bjornson, Winnipeg; Mr. and Mrs. Arni Bjarnarson and Mr. Gisli Olaf-

— Continued on Page Eighteen —

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Continued from Page Seventeen

son of Akureyri, Iceland. Mrs. G. Hallson, president of the W.A., was chairman.

On May 18, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hunter entertained the members of the choir at an outdoor luncheon party at their summer home at Crescent Beach, B.C. Everyone came in a happy mood and had a wonderful time, swimming, singing and eating. In the evening a big bon-fire was built down on the beach, marshmallows were toasted and a sing-song enjoyed. The party then retired to the Hunter's cozy living room for a farewell cup of coffee and a few more songs. Thank you for that lovely party, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter.

The Sunday School picnic was held at Trout Lake on June 15 and was well attended and a good time reported.

At a congregational meeting in May, Mrs. V. Baldwinson, Miss Hildur Arnason and your reporter were elected to attend the 74th annual convention of the Icelandic Synod, which was held in the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, June 8 to 11. It was a very fine and inspiring convention. Thank you, the women of First Lutheran, and members of the congregation for your gracious hospitality, which we

enjoyed and appreciated. At the morning meeting Tuesday, June 10, Dr. Eylands addressed our pastor Rev. E. S. Brynjolfson on the 30th anniversary of his ordination, congratulating him and his family and wishing them God's blessings. Our pastor and Mr. O. Bjorklund of First Lutheran, Winnipeg, were elected as delegates to attend the convention of the U.L.C.A. to be held in Dayton, Ohio, in October.

This will be a special convention as the U.L.C.A. will be observing the 40th Anniversary. We of the Vancouver congregation are happy that our pastor was chosen and congratulate him on this occasion.

Now that the holidays have drawn to a close and we, who have travelled far and wide are back home once more, we look forward to another season of church activities with pleasure and enthusiasm. May God bless all our efforts.

—GUDLAUG JOHANNESSON

"Exchanging" Youth

Did you ever hear of young people "exchanging" their home, school and church with another person? It's being done. And with keen interest by everyone seeing it.

This "exchanging" of life is part of youth's concern to understand the world we live in and to seek international goodwill on the spiritual level. It is called "ICYE" — the International Christian Youth Exchange.

The ICYE provides the opportunity for Christian young people to live abroad for a year. While in France, Germany, Austria, Norway or elsewhere, a high school student becomes a part of that country, living in a home, studying in the regular school system and participating in church-life. Several Protestant denominations have united to develop this world-wide exchange of youth in the belief that world community and world peace can thus be advanced.

At the same time Americans are spending a year abroad, homes here in our land are opened to receive Europeans, who share in American home, school and church life. The program tries to provide a two-way exchange, sometimes directly between two homes, so that both European and American communities grow in this experience.

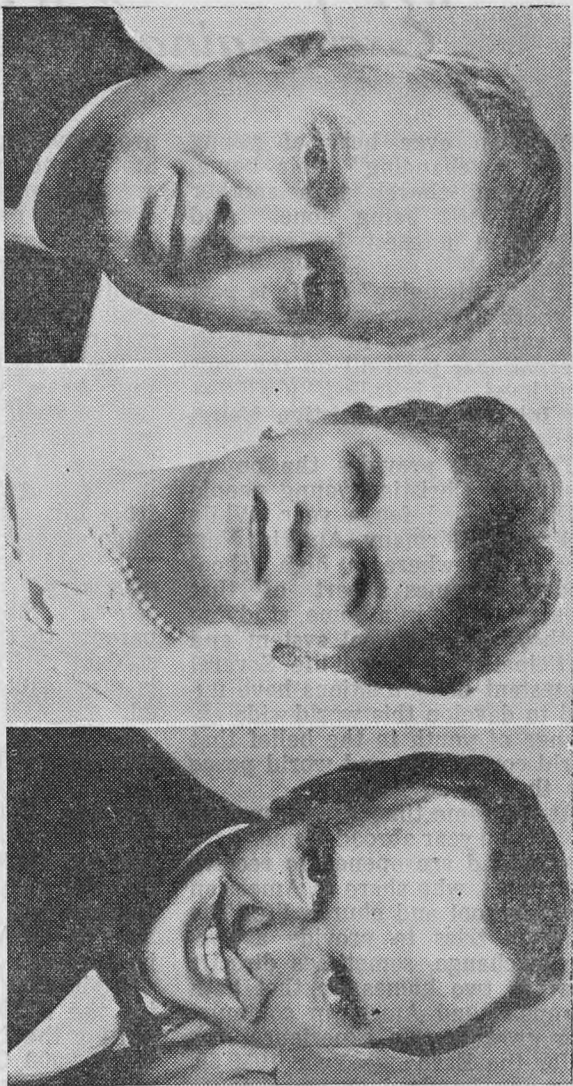
For the Exchange Year 1958-59, over one hundred overseas youth

are spending the year in the United States and over forty Americans are in Europe. Two United Lutherans are participating this year: Sally Miller of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata, Pennsylvania and Cynthia Wineman of First Lutheran Church, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The ICYE is "church-based" and thus helps to establish spiritual ties between nations. A local congregation applies to the Luther League of America to participate in the program. A young person from this congregation is selected to go abroad, high academic standards and language ability being necessary. The congregation also selects a "host family" to serve as parents to the visiting "exchange student". The host congregation is responsible for the costs involved.

To receive an overseas student, fees of \$400 are charged. This handles insurance, travel, briefing sessions. For an American student to go abroad, an additional \$800 is charged (\$1,200 total). This sum includes insurance, travel, briefing sessions and some financial assistance to the American's host family in Europe.

Additional information concerning the ICYE can be obtained by writing the Luther League of America, 2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia 29, Pennsylvania.



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH TO OBSERVE 40th ANNIVERSARY — The 40th anniversary of the United Lutheran Church in America will be observed during the ULCA's 21st biennial convention at Dayton, O., Oct. 8 to 15. Participating in the 40th anniversary dinner, to be sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship, Friday night, Oct. 10, will be Dr. Franklin Clark Fry (left), president of the ULCA, Miss Helen Knubel, daughter of the first president of the church, and Roger Williams, nationally-known pianist and son of a ULCA pastor.

—ULCA-PRT.